

HUCKLEBERRIES

Are Valuable to Miners' Families in Pennsylvania.

CLEAR UP \$250,000 A YEAR.

Dogs Guard Them From Snakes While They Pluck the Berries. Work Done Mainly by Women and Children—How a Miner's Widow Paid for a Block.

HAZLETON, Pa., Aug. 22.—The huckleberry crop is a godsend to the families of coal miners at and in the vicinity of Hazleton, returning to them as it does between \$40,000 and \$50,000 every year during the months that the season lasts, and what is true of the mining center is true of others, for the mountain regions of the entire anthracite field are prolific in their yield of this popular fruit.

It is estimated that the total crop is worth not less than \$250,000 to the mining families. In what is known as the Diamond Addition of Hazleton one of the handsomest blocks of buildings is the property of a miner's widow, who was left penniless with three small children, all girls, ten years ago. The block was built and paid for entirely by the proceeds from the sale of huckleberries picked by the widow and her three children.

Thronged With Picturesque Parties. The huckleberry pickers of this region are chiefly the wives and children of the Hungarian miners and Italian laborers. Early every morning during the berry season every avenue leading to the huckleberry mountains is thronged with picturesque parties laden with baskets, boxes, pails, and receptacles of every kind that can be utilized by the pickers in their work, and hurrying to be the first at favorite and profitable berry patches. The Italian women and children are the most apt and skillful of the pickers. An Italian woman can pick easily forty quarts a day, which, averaging the season through, is equivalent to \$2 earned. Then these women have each on an average three children old enough to be berry pickers, who add as much more to the day's income. Every Italian woman comes from the picking bearing a large box of berries on her head and carrying a big pail or basketful in each hand, while her children also are well laden.

Every Vessel Overflowing. Between the hours of 10 and 11 o'clock in the forenoon the berry pickers begin to come in from the hills, every vessel overflowing with the wild fruit, and the first picking of the day is ready to be delivered to the dealers, some of whom, to expedite the business, meet the pickers with wagons at convenient points, where the berries are purchased and paid for in cash on the spot. The average price is 5 cents a quart, although for the early blues, the variety that ripens first, 8 and 10 cents a quart is paid, according to the abundance or scarcity of the crop.

After delivering their first pick the women and children hurry back to the berry patches and begin work on the second picking. The midday sun—and a huckleberry barren is a sweltering, stifling spot—has no deterring effect on the pickers. They think only of how many berries it is possible for them to get into market for the day. Frequently it happens that miners are working on short time at this season, and the moment they are released from their toil underground they hasten to the huckleberry mountains to help their wives and children swell the results of the berry picking.

Dogs Act as Guards. Huckleberry picking in this region has an accompaniment not familiar to others districts, it is said. Little dogs that form part of the huckleberrying outfit go to the mountains with the pickers by the score. These dogs have an important duty to perform, and they do not hesitate in the performance of it. Indeed they seem to thoroughly enjoy it. Their duty is to hunt out and kill the rattlesnakes and copperhead snakes that are numerous on the huckleberry barrens, and warn the pickers of the proximity of the venomous reptiles.

The dogs seem to delight in hunting the snakes, and that they are well aware of the deadly nature of the reptiles is manifested by the wariness they show when confronted by one and the skill with which they flank and seize the reptile from behind, and always by the neck. Now and then a dog overestimates his powers in dealing with a rattlesnake and is bitten, but not often. If the dog when bitten can find the soft margin of a spring, run, or swamp in time, he immediately buries the wounded part in the mud and will come from it within an hour or two with no evil effect apparent from the venom. If no such refuge is nigh the dog dies.

Not Hornet Proof. These dogs are invaluable guards of the berry pickers against the rattlers and copperheads, but cannot guard them against the hornets and yellow jackets that seem to favor the berry grounds for their nesting places, and these pestiferous insects frequently force pickers to leave particularly choice spots for berries by their hot and painful attacks.

The earnings of the Hungarian and Italian families at picking huckleberries in this part of the coal region will range from \$100 to \$200 a year, according to the number and skill of the pickers. It is believed that nearly 1,000,000 quarts will be picked and disposed of in the Hazleton market house alone this year.

The abandonment of the gravity coal railroads in the northern coal field has closed some of the greatest huckleberry fields in the entire region against the miners' families. These railroads climbed the hills to and threaded the huckleberry barrens, and it was an easy matter for the pickers to get upon the coal cars and be carried to and from the fields, owing to the many stops the trains were compelled to make. The substitution of locomotive railroads for the gravity roads has made such transportation impossible now, and as the great berry patches are too far to reach by walking, and as no wagon

roads run to or near them, thousands of dollars are lost to the miners' families.

SCHARN MURDER

Still a Mystery to the New York Police—Dead Girl's Brother Held in the Tombs.

NEW YORK, August 22.—The police continue actively at work trying to clear up the mystery of the murder of Kate Scharn, in her apartments last Saturday night. The detectives declared to-day that there is half an hour unaccounted for in the alibi set up by the girl's brother, Frederick, to clear himself. Young Scharn is now in the Tombs, where he is held without bail. Police Inspector Harley, who has charge of the case, said to-day in speaking of young Scharn:

"He was out of work for two months. He was dependent upon his sister for his support. He was continually asking her for money."

"We know that a suit of clothes he had ordered for \$12 had only \$3 paid on it. We know that the tailor went to the sister and asked her to pay the balance, which she refused to do."

"We know that the boy was the only one that knew where to find the hammer with which the crime was committed."

Notwithstanding their suspicions against young Scharn, the police are trying to find other clues, and are searching for the man with whom the murdered girl went shopping on the day of her death.

Drowned While Bathing.

PARSONS, W. Va., August 22.—An employee of the Buckhannon River Railroad Company was drowned while in bathing near Phillipi to-day. His name is unknown.

LITERARY NOTES.

According to London Vanity Fair, Clement Scott is about to become an editor. He will, it is said, bring out a new weekly society paper in September.

Helen Hay, daughter of the Hon. John Hay, author of the state, will soon publish a collection of humorous child verse entitled "The Little Book."

It is announced that Prof. Charles Eliot Norton and other literary executors of John Ruskin have determined not to issue a biography of the art critic, considering his "Præterita" and Collingwood's biography sufficient. But the executors will issue representative selections from Mr. Ruskin's diaries and letters.

A first folio Shakespeare, measuring 12½ inches by 10 inches, with a few deficiencies supplied in facsimile, sold at Sotheby's recently in London for \$1,200, a fair, but not a high price. Previous prices for first folios have been \$8,500 last year for an exceptionally fine copy, \$3,575 (1864), \$450, \$930, \$1,025 (wanting paper and title page), \$2,925, \$2,075, \$845 and \$1,275.

Major General James H. Wilson, U. S. V., who sailed for China recently, is about to revisit a country with which he is familiar. How familiar, he has admirably indicated in his book, "China Travels and Investigations in the Middle Kingdom," a new edition of which is being brought out by D. Appleton & Co.

The editor of the Century is receiving inquiries about the author of "The Helms of Navarre," the historical romance which began to appear serially in the August number of that magazine. Miss Bertha Runkle is the only child of Mrs. L. G. Runkle, a well known New York journalist, and one of the editors of the "Library of the World's Best Literature."

The present work is a maiden effort at fiction-writing. She was born in New Jersey a few and twenty years ago, never went to kindergarten as a child, nor to college as a young woman, has traveled little, and has never been in France—which possibly accounts for her laying there the scene of her romance.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Money on call steady at 14½¢ per cent. Prime mercantile paper 4½¢ per cent. Sterling exchange firmer, with actual business in bankers' bills at \$4 87½¢ for demand and at \$4 84½¢ for sixty days; posted rates \$4 85¼¢ 85½¢ and \$4 88¼¢ 89¢.

Commercial bills \$4 83¼¢ 84¢. Bar silver 61½¢. Silver certificates 61½¢ 62½¢. Mexican dollars 48½¢.

Government bonds strong. State bonds steady. Railroad bonds irregular. The level of prices was not materially changed as a result of to-day's trading in stocks. In fact the fluctuations in the most prominent railroads did not exceed one-half per cent and in only a few specialties was the range a point.

Conditions underlying the general situation are the main topic of discussion in the street and it apparently requires unusual developments to dislodge the market from the rut into which it has fallen. With operations pretty generally limited to trading element who close their contracts from day to day, not much interest can be attributed to current market movements. Some effort was made at the opening to continue yesterday's late reaction, but supporting orders appeared in Brooklyn Transit and People's Gas, which strengthened the entire list. Consolidated Gas was in demand and rose almost two points on buying inspired by its early restoration to an 8 per cent annual dividend basis. A subsequent attack was made on People's Gas, the price going down 1½ and remaining under last night until the final dealings. No definite news has developed to account for the recent pronounced pressure against this stock.

Statements that no agreement was reached in the conference between various steel companies and labor organizations without any effect on the steel properties which were largely neglected. Business was at a standstill during the greater part of the afternoon, but toward the close there was a slight upturn and prices rose to the best figures of the day on covering of shorts. Conspicuous strength was displayed by St. Louis Southwestern preferred and northwest, which advanced a point, latter ignoring a falling off in its gross earnings for July of \$110,711.

General Electric declined two points on sales influenced by the lack of corroboration of recent favorable rumors. Canadian Pacific yielded a point on apprehension of labor difficulties, and Western Union almost as much on unfavorable heavy transactions. London traded on both sides of the account, but the aggregate of transactions was small. The sub-treasury statement shows that its loss to the banks at the close of business yesterday was almost \$5,000,000.

The bond market was irregular today on moderate dealings. Total sales par value \$735,000.

United States refunding 2½ when issued advanced ¼ per cent in the bid price.

U. S. Bonds.

U. S. refunding 17 7/8 new 108 1/2 122 1/2 2½ when issued 17 7/8 new 108 1/2 122 1/2 registered 104 1/2 old 14 reg. 115 do coupon 104 1/2 old 14 reg. 115 1/2 U. S. 5s 2½ reg. 112 1/2 U. S. 3s coupon 102 1/2 U. S. 4s coupon 112 1/2

Stocks.

Atchafalpa 27 1/2 Mo. Pacific 41 1/2 do preferred 70 1/2 Mobile & Ohio, 37

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BAL. & OHIO.

Bal. & Ohio 71 1/2 Mo. Kan. & T. 9 1/2

Can. Pacific 89 1/2 do preferred 32 1/2

Can. Southern 48 1/2 N. J. Central 136 1/2

Chgo. & N. Y. 107 1/2 Norfolk & W. 33 1/2

Chl. Ind. & Q. 22 1/2 do preferred 74 1/2

Chl. & N. Y. 107 1/2 do preferred 74 1/2

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Timothy seed—Prime, \$3 85¢ 85¢ 95¢.

Meas Pork—Per barrel \$10 90¢ 10 95¢.

Lard—Per 100 lbs. \$4 90¢ 4 92½¢.

Short ribs—Sides (boxed) \$6 50¢ 6 55¢.

Dry salted shoulders (boxed) 6 1/2¢ 6 3/4¢.

Short clear sides (boxed) \$4 45¢ 4 50¢.

Whisky—Basis of high wines \$1 21½¢.

Sugars unchanged.

Butter—Firm; creameries 16¢ 22½¢.

daillies, 14¢ 18¢.

Cheese—Steady at 10¢ 11¢.

Eggs—Firm; fresh 12¢.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles. Open. High. Low. Close.

Wheat, No. 2 72 1/2 73 1/2 72 1/2 73 1/2

Sept. 72 1/2 73 1/2 72 1/2 73 1/2

Oct. 72 1/2 73 1/2 72 1/2 73 1/2

Aug. 32 1/2 33 1/2 32 1/2 33 1/2

Sept. 32 1/2 33 1/2 32 1/2 33 1/2

Oct. 32 1/2 33 1/2 32 1/2 33 1/2

Calumet, No. 2 21 1/2 22 1/2 21 1/2 22 1/2

Sept. 21 1/2 22 1/2 21 1/2 22 1/2

Oct. 21 1/2 22 1/2 21 1/2 22 1/2

Sass. 10 1/2 10 3/4 10 1/2 10 3/4

Oct. 10 1/2 10 3/4 10 1/2 10 3/4

Jan. 11 1/2 11 3/4 11 1/2 11 3/4

Lard 6 1/2 6 3/4 6 1/2 6 3/4

Sept. 6 1/2 6 3/4 6 1/2 6 3/4

Oct. 6 1/2 6 3/4 6 1/2 6 3/4

Jan. 6 1/2 6 3/4 6 1/2 6 3/4

Short Ribs 6 1/2 6 3/4 6 1/2 6 3/4

Oct. 6 1/2 6 3/4 6 1/2 6 3/4

Jan. 6 1/2 6 3/4 6 1/2 6 3/4

NEW YORK—Flour, receipts 15,668 barrels; exports 10,783 barrels; there was a better inquiry to-day for spring wheat grades at a shade advance over yesterday.

Wheat, receipts 97,125 bushels; exports 40,119 bushels; spot market firm; No. 2 red 73¢ elevator; options slow all day; closed strong at half a cent net decline; close May 82½¢; September, 78½¢; October, 74½¢; December, 80½¢.

Corn, receipts 213,000 bushels; exports 307,053 bushels; spot market steady; No. 2, 45¢ elevator; options opened stronger; closed firm at ½¢ net advance; close May 40½¢; September, 40½¢.

Oats, receipts 163,500 bushels; exports 21,240 bushels; spot market steady; No. 2, 35¢; options barely steady and dull. Hay steady. Hides and leather firm. Hops and coal quiet. Beef steady. Pork steady; western steamed 7¢ 7½¢; refined firm. Tallow dull. Cottonseed oil and rosin steady. Turpentine easy at 35¢ 39½¢. Rice quiet. Molasses quiet.

Coffee, spot Rio quiet; No. 7 invoice 5¢; mild market quiet; Cordova No. 7 nominal. Coffee futures opened steady at an advance of 5¢ 10 points; closed firm; total sales, 50,000 bags. Sugar, raw steady; refined steady.

BALTIMORE—Flour quiet and steady; receipts 10,301 barrels; exports 245 barrels. Wheat dull; spot and the month 70½¢ 71¢; receipts 70,863 bushels; exports 21,423 bushels. Oats firm; No. 2 white 26½¢ 27¢. Hay dull; No. 1 Timothy old, \$15 50¢ 16¢. Cheese and eggs firm. Butter steady; fancy creamery 22¢ 23¢.